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The Legend of OZ:
THE WICKED WEST

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STOP FIGHTIN' ME, DARN IT!
WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO RUN, AS MUCH AS I KNOW YOU'D LIKE TO. THAT TWISTER IS ALMOST ON TOP OF US...
SO I GOTTA LASH US DOWN TO SOMETHIN' AND *PRAY* IT DON'T HIT US DEAD ON.
HANG ON, TOTO.
DON'T BE SCARED.

OH...
NOOOOOOOO!

NO!
DAMN NIGHTMARES. THIRD NIGHT IN A ROW NOW.
I DON'T KNOW TOTO. MAYBE WE NEED TO JUST ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THIS IS WHERE WE'RE GONNA LIVE OUT OUR LIVES. SEEMS FINDIN' THAT WIZARD THE LITTLE FOLK TOLD ABOUT IS LITTLE MORE THAN A NIGHTMARE IN ITSELF.
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS, AFTER ALL. AND FOLLOWIN' A ROAD MADE OUTTA GOLD BRICKS THAT'S BEEN PICKED AT AND STOLEN FROM FOR YEARS SURE DON'T MAKE THE TREK ANY EASIER.
WADDAYA SAY, TOTO? SHOULD WE JUST CALL IT QUITS AND FIND A PLACE TO SETTLE INTO?
PBBBBBT
YEAH, I WANT TO GO HOME TOO. ONE MORE DAY WON'T KILL US I SUPPOSE. WE DID COME ACROSS THOSE COUPLE PIECES OF THE ROAD YESTERDAY, SO WE MUST BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK AGAIN.

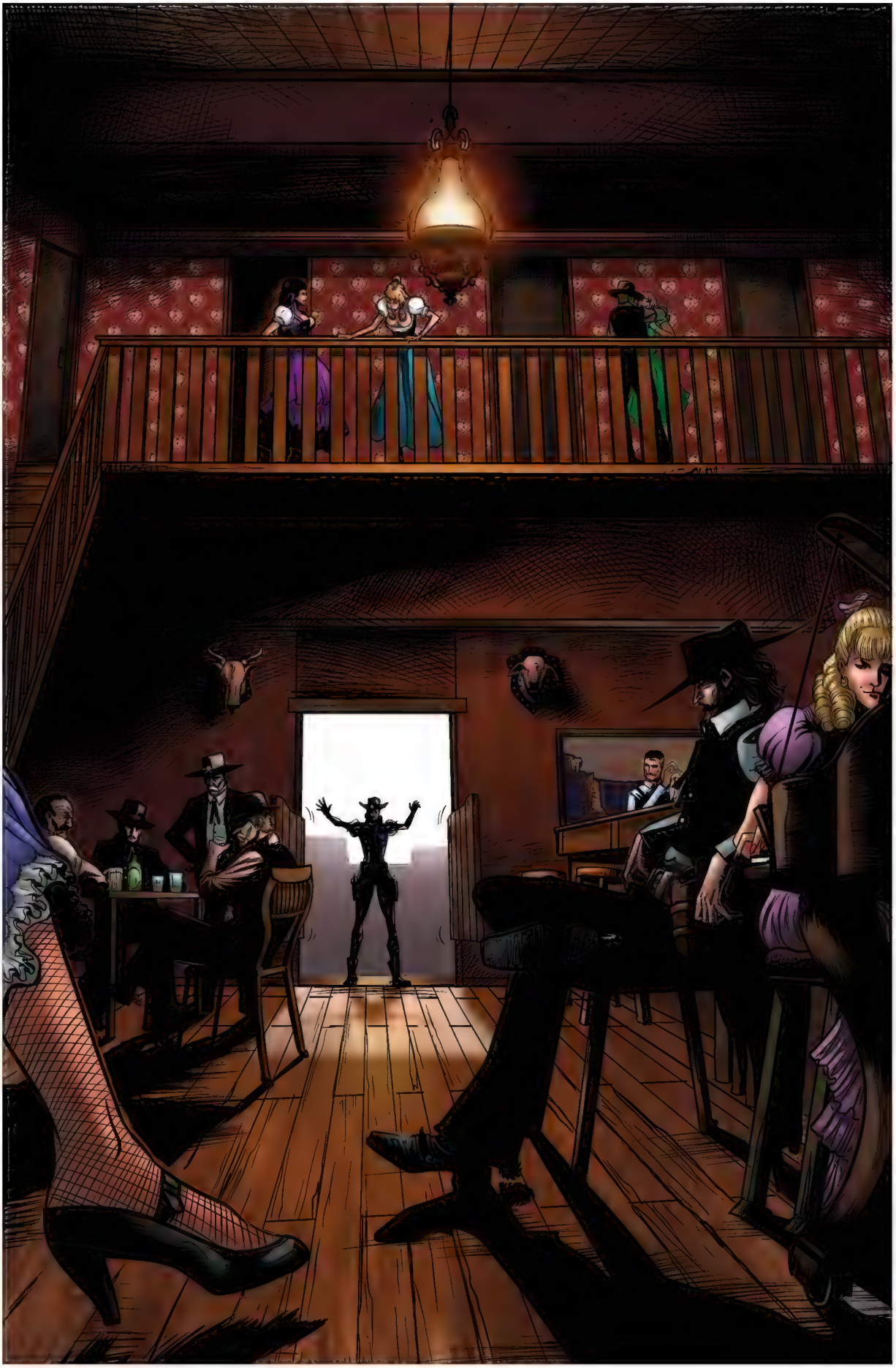
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT, I GUESS.
GIDDYUP, PARTNER.
"FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD" MY FANNY.

YOU KNOW SOMETHIN' TOTO? THIS CRAZY COUNTRY SURE IS FEAST OR FAMINE. ONE MINUTE YOU'RE FOLLOWIN' A ROAD AND THE NEXT IT'S VANISHED.
OR YOU LEAVE SOMEWHERE THAT'S GOT PEOPLE AND PLACES THINKIN' YOU GOT PROPER DIRECTION AGAIN, BUT YOU END UP DEAD CENTER OF NOWHERE WITH NOTHIN' TO GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY BUT A RANDOM GOLD BRICK IN THE GROUND.
AND JUST WHEN YOU'RE 'BOUT READY TO LAY DOWN AND LET THE VULTURES PICK AT YOUR BONES, GOOD OLE OZ SPITS OUT SOMETHIN' THAT'LL EITHER KEEP YOU SANE OR PUSH YOU ALL THE WAY OVER.
I'LL SAY IT AGAIN, TOTO. WE SURE AREN'T IN KANSAS ANYMORE...

WELCOME TO TOWN!
WHO SAID THAT?
CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
WHO'S THERE?

WELL NOW THERE'S A PLEASANT THOUGHT. THE SCARECROWS ARE TALKIN' TO YA, GALE.
ALRIGHT TOTO, LET'S MEET THE LOCALS.
LOOKS TO BE A BIT OF A GHOST TOWN.
SOUNDS LIKE THE GHOSTS WOKE UP.
I'LL LET YOU REST HERE IN THE SHADE, TOTO. BESIDES, YOU DON'T NEED TO BE STICKIN' YOUR NOSE IN WHERE IT AIN'T NEEDED, BIG FELLA.

I'LL BE BACK SOON ENOUGH.
CHING
JUST STAY CALM. DON'T LET 'EM SEE YOU SWEAT.
ONE... TWO...



YOU LOST, DARLIN'?
THAT WOULD BE ONE WAY TO DESCRIBE IT, I SUPPOSE.
LOOKING FOR SOME COMPANY, HONEY?
WHAT?
I ASKED IF YOU NEEDED ANY COMPANY. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN TRAVELLING A FAIR DISTANCE.
KICK OFF YOUR BOOTS AND COOL YOUR HEELS...
THE PLAINS CAN GET MIGHTY LONELY. WE CAN FIX LONELY... IF YOU LIKE.
SORRY, LADIES. NOT WHAT I'M LOOKIN' FOR.
WHAT'LL IT BE?
SOMETHING STRONG.
YOU OLD ENOUGH FOR THAT?
DOES IT MATTER?

I SUPPOSE NOT.
SO, WHAT'S THIS TOWN'S STORY?
STORY?
I'VE BEEN THROUGH A FEW TOWNS SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE. THEY ALL HAVE A STORY.
TRUTH BE TOLD, THIS PLACE WAS GROWING TILL THEY SHOWED UP. SCARED MOST OF THE SETTLERS OUT. BUSINESS WENT WITH THEM.
BUT YOU'RE STILL HERE?
NOWHERE ELSE TO GO, REALLY. BESIDES, THEY PAY THEIR BILLS. I'LL SAVE WHAT I CAN AND GET OUT WHEN THE TIME'S RIGHT.
PAY THEIR BILLS, HUH? LET ME GUESS...
...GOLD BRICKS?
YOU GOT IT.
MAKES TRAVELIN' A LITTLE DIFFICULT IF THEY KEEP RIPPIN' THE ROAD UP.
THAK

FOLLOWING THE ROAD ARE YOU? BUSINESS IN THE EMERALD CITY?
OF SORTS. FELL IN WITH SOME LITTLE FOLKS A WHILE BACK AND THEY SEEMED TO THINK SOMEONE OUT THERE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ME.
THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
NO PROBLEM.
NOT FOR ME AT LEAST...
STAND UP...
...THIEF.
EXCUSE ME?
YOU'RE WEARIN' SOME MIGHTY PARTICULAR ITEMS ON YER HIPS THAT DON'T BELONG TO YOU.

SAYS WHO?
WE DO. YOU'RE A TRESPASSER AND A THIEF, SO KINDLY HAND OVER YOUR BELT...
...UNLESS YA WANT US TO TAKE IT FROM YA.
HEH HEH HEH!
OK BOYS, LET'S ALL SETTLE DOWN A BIT. NO NEED TO MAKE THIS MESSY.
CLICK CLICK
IF YOU'RE GONNA PULL A GUN ON A MAN, YOU BETTER BE READY TO PULL THE TRI--
BANG!

THUMP
YOU KILLED HIM....
RRRAAAWWWRRR!
THIEF.
TRESSPASSER...
MURDERER!

GRAWWW!
FLYING MONKEYS... YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?

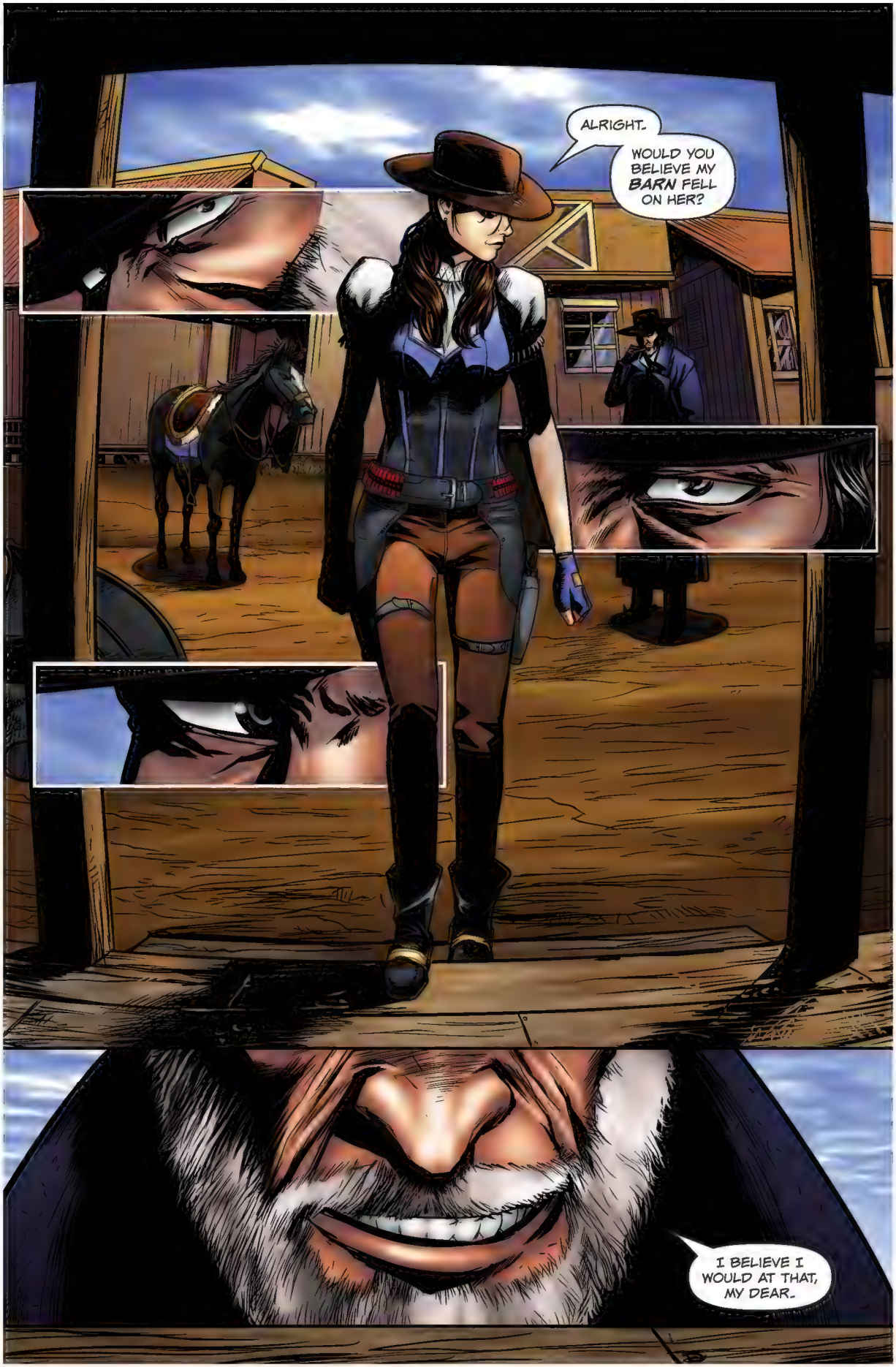
YARG!
DIDN'T HAFTA BE THIS WAY, FELLAS.
YIKES!
GOTCHA!
CREAK
WHERE'D THAT THING GO?
WHAT WAS...?
CRASH

HE'S TOO FAST...
WHY THE HECK IS THE PIANO CHAINED TO THE...
---LION?!
TOTO!

GOOD BOY.
SURE AM GLAD I TAUGHT YOU HOW TO LOOSEN YOURSELF UP FROM A HITCHIN' POST. CAME IN HANDY TODAY.
I GOTTA GO SQUARE UP WITH THE BAR KEEP AND THEN YOU AND I CAN GET OUTTA THIS PLACE.
SCREEEEEEECH!
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
RRRRRRR--
URK!
THUCK

WHUMP
WOW. NICE AIM.
GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO COME WITH ME, LITTLE LADY.
THAT'S NOT PART OF THE PLAN TODAY, FELLA.
YOU SHOT A MAN IN COLD BLOOD IN THE SALOON.
THAT WASN'T NO MAN.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT. NOT AT FIRST.
DID YOU?
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS A MONKEY, BUT ANY TIME A MAN'S EYES START GLOWIN' GREEN AND HE'S THREATENING TO TAKE WHAT'S MINE...
...LET'S JUST SAY I KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

FAIR ENOUGH, BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS *CHARGES?* YOU'RE WEARIN' SOME *VERY* UNIQUE EQUIPMENT. I KNOW FOR A *FACT* WHO THEY BELONG TO AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU GOT AHOLD OF THEM, BECAUSE IT'S UNLIKELY SHE WOULD JUST *HAND* THEM OVER TO YOU.
NOT SURE WHY YOU'RE SO INTERESTED. YOU SUPPOSED TO BE WHAT PASSES FOR *LAW* IN THIS TOWN?
AUTHORITY, MAYBE. TAKING CARE OF THE LAW IS GONNA REQUIRE A LITTLE MORE *HEART* THAN I'VE GOT AT THE MOMENT.
IF YOU'RE *NOT* THE LAW, THEN I'D SAY OUR BUSINESS IS FINISHED.
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION, DARLIN'. HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO ACQUIRE THEM *HIP* IRONS? SHE WOULDN'T GIVE 'EM UP WILLINGLY.


ALRIGHT.
WOULD YOU BELIEVE MY BARN FELL ON HER?
I BELIEVE I WOULD AT THAT, MY DEAR.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, DARLIN'?
JUST CALL ME GALE, OLD MAN.
SHE CUTS A STRIKING SILHOUETTE. THAT'LL GET HER SOME ATTENTION SHE MAY NOT WANT OUT ON THE ROAD.
BUT THE WAY SHE HANDLES THAT GUN WON'T BE EASILY MATCHED.
BESIDES, STILL ONE MORE QUESTION NEEDS ANSWERED...
STILL, THE LITTLE MISSY MAY NEED A BIT OF HELP. MIGHT BE WORTH VTAKIN' UP WITH HER FOR A BIT.
IS SHE A GOOD WITCH, OR A BAD WITCH?

ASPEN

#2 OF 4

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VOL. 1 | COV A

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THE LEGEND OF OZ: THE WICKED WEST

Vol.1 Issue No.2

Tom Hutchison
script

Alisson Borges
pencils & digital inks

Kate Finnegan
colors

HDE
lettering

Back Up Story

Tom Hutchison
script

Fabio Nahon
art

Ceci de la Cruz
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Josh Reed
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"Kalidahs"

Three years after a tornado flung her into Oz, Dorothy Gale seems no closer to finding the Emerald City than the day she arrived. After a rough and tumble meeting with the Winged Monkeys, Gale and her newfound friend mount up and ride for the Emerald City. The desert gives way to forest and forest means lions and tigers and bears-- and Kalidahs!

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BARTENDER!

SURE GLAD *I'M* NOT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUTT KICKIN' THAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN. THAT LITTLE LADY KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE HERSELF FOR SURE.

BUT OZ *DON'T* ALWAYS TAKE A LIKIN' TO FOLKS THAT MESS WITH THE STATUS QUO.

OZ ALWAYS HAS MORE EYES ON YOU THEN YOU EVER KNOW.

SHE KILLED THEM ALL?

JUST *ONE* ACTUALLY, AND HE PROVOKED HER. LAWMAN KILLED THE OTHER. THE REST ARE JUST WOUNDED. DOES THAT MEANS SHE'S A *GOOD* WITCH?

DOESN'T MATTER. THOSE GUNS AND SUCH DON'T BELONG TO HER, AND WE BLEW OUR CHANCE TO GET 'EM.

WE TRIED THOUGH. SHE CAN'T FAULT US FOR THAT...

CAN'T SHE?

MISTRESS CAN FAULT US FOR ANY-THING SHE WISHES. WE FAILED. AND WE NEED TO ADMIT OUR FAILURE.

WE COULD TRY AGAIN?

QUIET. WE HAVE MUCH TO REPORT.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

ODD. COULDA *SWORN* I HEARD SOME CHATTERIN' BACK HERE.

PLEASE DON'T HIT ME!

NOW THAT I GOT YOUR ATTENTION, YOU WANNA LET ME KNOW ***WHEN EXACTLY*** YOU WERE GONNA TELL ME THOSE COWBOYS WERE ACTUALLY GIANT MONKEYS?

I COULDN'T! IT WASN'T MY PLACE! THEY ***OWN*** THIS TOWN!

SMACK

NO-ONE OWNS A TOWN. THEY OWNED ***YOU.***

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, BIG FELLA?

LOOKS LIKE THEY MANAGED TO GET THEIR PAWS ON YOU TOO.

THAT MONKEY DID A NUMBER ON THIS OLE PIANO, BUT I SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO GET IT OUT OF THE WAY.

PLEASE JUST DON'T LET THIS THING HIT HIS TAIL. THAT'S A SET OF CHOPPERS I DON'T NEED TICKED OFF AT ME.

SKROOOOWWKK

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW A LION ON A CHAIN WHO WAS *HAPPY* ABOUT IT.

MAYBE SO. DON'T MEAN HE'S GONNA JUST ASSUME YOU'RE ONE OF THE *GOOD GUYS.*

I DON'T RECALL ASKING FOR YOUR OPINION, MISTER.

JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE HERE, MR. LION.

SNIFF

WHOA, BUDDY.

NOW WHAT? YOU JUST GONNA LEAD HIM OUT ON A LEASH?

NOPE. I'M GONNA PUT AN END TO THIS.

CHINNG

GO AHEAD, PARTNER. NO ONE'S STOPPING YOU.

PBBBBBT!

THAT WASN'T VERY NICE, TOTO.

YOU'RE LUCKY THAT LION DIDN'T SNACK ON THAT FLEABAG OF YOURS. PROB'LY BEEN LOCKED UP FOR WEEKS.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WHICH DIRECTION THE ROAD HEADED OUT OF TOWN? Y'KNOW, BEFORE THE MONKEYS TORE IT UP?

JUST 'CAUSE I'M OLD DON'T MEAN I'M *SENILE*.

WE'LL SEE.

ROAD CAME STRAIGHT THROUGH. JUST THE WAY YOU WERE HEADIN'. RIGHT TOWARDS THE OLD STABLE'S WHERE IT AIMED BACK OUT TO THE DESERT.

AND RIGHT TO THE EMERALD CITY, HUH?

HA HA HA!

YOU AIN'T GONNA FIND THE EMERALD CITY.

WELL... LOOK WHO WOKE UP.

AND WHY ***WON'T*** I FIND IT, MONKEY BOY?

YOU HELP ME, I'LL HELP YOU.

SO. TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ROAD.

AIN'T NO ROAD ANYMORE. NO WAY TO FIND IT.

'SPECIALLY NOT BY SOME PAINTED ***FRAIL*** LIKE YOU.

I'M **NOT** ONE OF YOUR BAR GIRLS, PARTNER, AND YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ROAD...

ALRIGHT, TOTO...

TIME TO GIDDY-UP OUT OF THIS WRETCHED TOWN.

ROUGHED HIM UP A BIT, DON'T YOU THINK?

DEPENDS. YOU STILL JUST *PRETENDING* TO BE THE LAW?

SO... WHERE TO?

I DON'T RECALL ASKIN' FOR COMPANY, TIN MAN.

YAH! LET'S GO, TOTO!

GUESS THAT OLD MAN *DIDN'T* HAVE THE HEART FOR THIS LITTLE ADVENTURE, AFTER ALL, TOTO.

HIS LOSS. RIGHT, TO-

WHOA!

WHUMP WHUMP

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU DOIN', GIRL? I JUST ABOUT RAN YOU DOWN!

ARE YOU--- OKAY?

NO!

STAY YOUR COURSE. LEAVE THIS TO ME.

PUT HER DOWN. SHE'S JUST A CHILD. I ***WON'T*** TELL YOU AGAIN.

THIS "GIRL" IS LITTLE MORE THAN A ***PUPPET.*** NOTHING UP HERE TO KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG, OR GOOD FROM EVIL.

CLICK CLICK

EASY, NOW. KEEP 'EM HOLSTERED. JUST LET ME SHOW YOU ONE THING...

SWOOOOOSH

NO!

BANG BANG BANG

TANG

CLANG

TINK

THUMP

YOU CAN PUT THAT AWAY. RUBY BULLETS MAY BE SOMETHIN' SPECIAL, BUT THEY AIN'T THE ANSWER TO ***EVERY*** PROBLEM IN OZ. BESIDES, I PROVED MY POINT.

WHAT ARE YOU? WHAT IS SHE?

SHE'S A PUPPET. ANIMATED BY MAGIC.

THESE THINGS ARE ALL OVER OZ. ***SCARECROWS,*** WE CALL 'EM. BUT THEY GOT NO SENSE IN THEIR HEADS, GALE.

HERE. TAKE IT. SHE CAN SEW IT BACK ON. SHE AIN'T HURT.

BUT THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S GONNA RIDE WITH US. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN ONE'S GONNA GIVE YOU A HAND OR ***STAB*** YOU IN THE BACK.

AN AXE, MA'AM. THROWN STRAIGHT AND TRUE.

STAND ASIDE.

ATROCITY. THIS SHALL NOT STAND.

I WILL SEE HER DRAWN AND QUARTERED BY THE WINDS OF THE FOUR CORNERS THEMSELVES!

HER AND HER LI--

AND HER LITTLE HORSE, TOO.

GALE, BE REASONABLE. SHE *CAN'T* BE TRUSTED.

I TRUST *HER* MORE THAN YOU AFTER WHAT I JUST SAW, TIN MAN.

STOP CALLING ME THAT. IF SHE'S COMING WITH US, AT LEAST SEND HER WITH ME SO I CAN KEEP MY EYE ON THE THING.

US? I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR HELP. BESIDES, WE HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM RIGHT NOW. DO YOU THINK THE ROAD WENT LEFT OR RIGHT?

DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW. FLIP A COIN I SUPPOSE.

HEY! WHERE YOU GOIN'?

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOT MORE THAN STRAW IN HER HEAD AFTER ALL.

MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. WE STILL GOTTA GO LEFT OR RIGHT.

SEEMS TO ME THE ROAD WENT *STRAIGHT AHEAD*. I SAY THAT'S THE WAY WE GO TOO!

BACK IT UP A BIT, PARTNER.

YOU'RE KIDDIN' ME, RIGHT?

I'VE ALREADY RIDDEN A TWISTER STRAIGHT OVER THE RAINBOW AND DIDN'T FALL OFF.

THIS SHOULD BE EASY.

YAH!

STAND STILL, HONEY!

HOLD TIGHT...

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT:

LIONS AND TIGERS AND... KALIDAHS!

SO, HERE WE ARE. WHAT ARE WE EXPECTED TO DO?

WE WERE MEANT TO MEET AND DISCUSS OUR PROGRESS WITH OUR GIFTS. BUT--

BUT... SOMEONE HERE IS ***FAR*** FROM THE PEACEKEEPER ASSIGNED TO ONE OF THESE GIFTS.

YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO TELL US HOW YOU CAME TO WEAR THOSE RUBY SIDEARMS.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE A HOUSE FELL ON HER?

NO!

HOLD ON, NOW. LET ME EXPLAIN.

MY NAME'S ***CARDINAAL,*** AND WHILE I CAN'T EXPLAIN EXACTLY HOW I GOT HERE, FACT OF THE MATTER IS THE WOMAN WHO HELD THESE GUNS WAS FOUND UNDER A HOUSE...OR PART OF A HOUSE, ANYWAY.

TIN TIN TIN

EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE, IT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN HOW ***YOU*** CAME INTO POSSESSION OF THOSE GUNS, MISS CARDINAAL.

SHORT STORY SHORTER, THE MUNCHKINS GAVE THEM TO ME.

ALRIGHT LET ME SEE IF I HAVE THIS STRAIGHT...

YOU'RE SITTIN' AT HOME, AND A STORM COMES CALLIN'. NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU'RE IN OZ AND THE MUNCHKINS ARE HANDIN' YOU OUR PARTNER'S GEAR AFTER SHE'S WALLOPED BY YOUR BEDROOM?

MORE OR LESS, BUT NOT TILL THEY LAID HER TA REST. I GUESS THEY JUST FELT LIKE MY APPEARANCE WAS SOME KIND OF SIGN, OR SOMETHIN'.

WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, MY PREDECESSOR WAS PRACTICING HER AIM AND GENERATED SOME KIND OF DOORWAY THAT CONNECTED TO MY HOUSE BACK IN KENTUCKY.

THAT'S WHEN MY BEDROOM GOT SWALLOWED UP BY THE STORM AND LANDED ON THE POOR GIRL.

YOU'RE TELLING ME THOSE BULLETS ARE CAPABLE OF TEARING OPEN A HOLE BETWEEN WORLDS AND PULLING THINGS BACK INTO OZ?

HOW CAN WE ***POSSIBLY*** TAKE THAT SERIOUSLY, CARDINAAL?

SEEMS TO ME BY THE WAY YOUR FACES ARE TWITCHIN', MAYBE YOU ALREADY BELIEVE MY STORY.

SO I GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU ALL...

WHAT IS IT YOUR GUNS CAN DO?

WHAT'RE YOU INTENDIN' TA DO WITH THAT, LITTLE LADY?

TRUST ME.

OW!

ARE YOU CRAZY?

NO. HAVE FAITH. NOW MORE THAN EVER.

TIK TIK TIK

AND DON'T MOVE!

BLAM

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ME. A BULLET THAT... HEALS?

IF WE'RE GONNA SHOW OFF, I GO NEXT!

NEXT: KEEP YOUR ENEMIES CLOSE...

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#3

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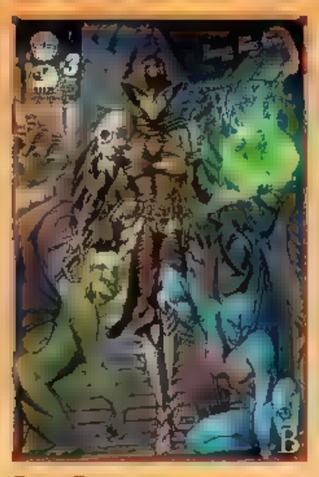

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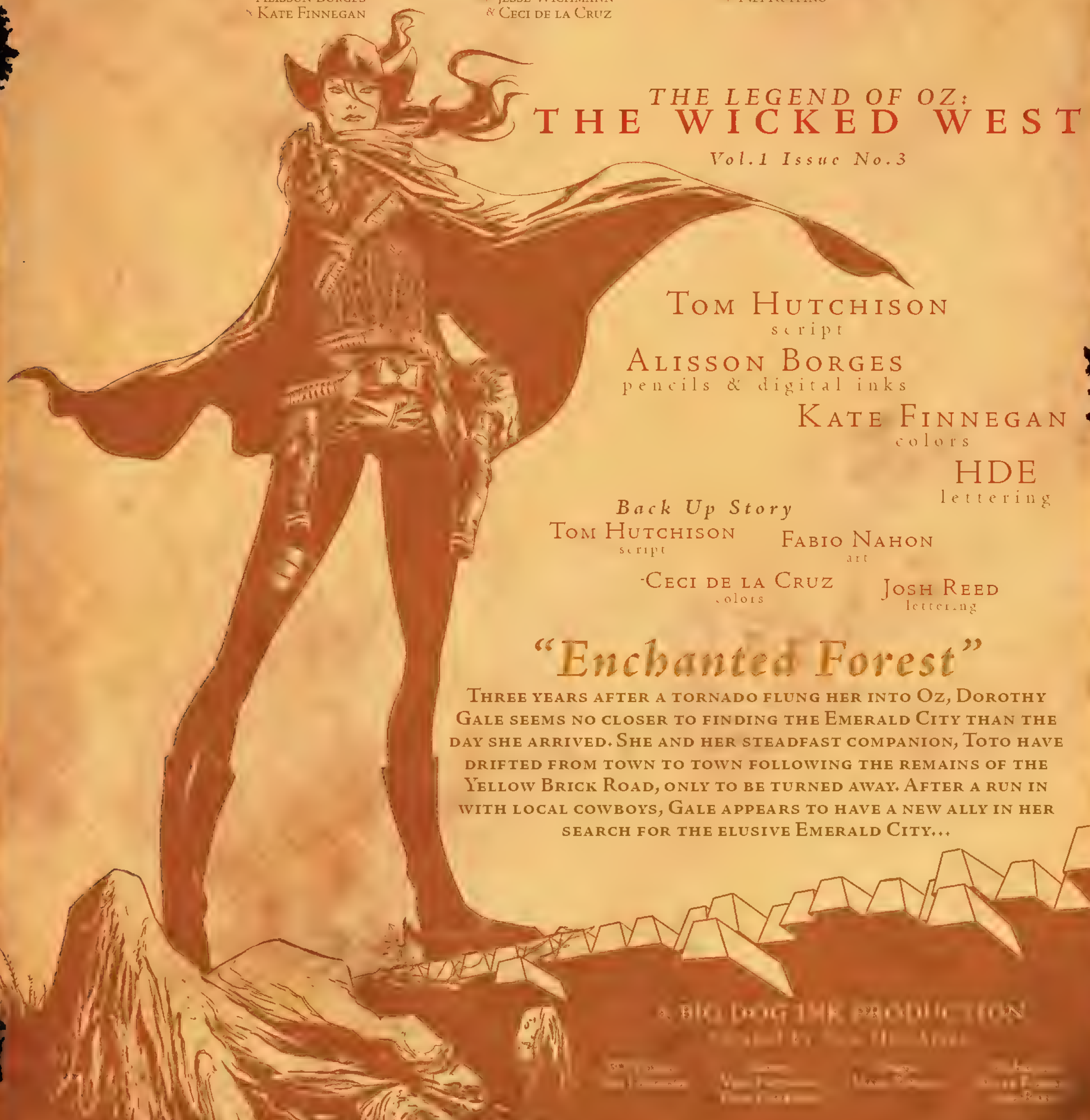

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Vol.1 Issue No.3

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"Enchanted Forest"

Three years after a tornado flung her into Oz, Dorothy Gale seems no closer to finding the Emerald City than the day she arrived. She and her steadfast companion, Toto have drifted from town to town following the remains of the Yellow Brick Road, only to be turned away. After a run in with local cowboys, Gale appears to have a new ally in her search for the elusive Emerald City...

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"O, for a horse with wings!"

- Shakespeare

CLUMP
CLUMP
OOOF!

HEY!

PBBBBBT

TOTO!

HE HURT?

JUST HIS *PRIDE*, I'D IMAGINE.

WE'LL CATCH UP TO HIM.

BUT RIGHT NOW I NEED TO GIVE A BIG OLE THANK YOU TO OUR LITTLE FRIEND.

WHERE'D SHE GO?

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YA.

HOLY COW! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', KID?

THANK YOU, HONEY. BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

IT'S NOT TOO LIKELY WE'RE GONNA MAKE THAT JUMP LIKE YOU DID, GALE.

I'LL TAKE A LOOK FOR ANOTHER BRIDGE AND CATCH UP TO YOU WHEN I CAN.

TAKE YOUR TIME *OLD* MAN. I STILL HAVEN'T ACTUALLY INVITED YOU ON THIS TRIP YET, SO MAYBE WE'LL BE HERE OR MAYBE WE WON'T.

I CAN SMELL THAT MUNCHKIN PERFUME YOU'RE WEARIN' A MILE OFF. I'LL FIND YA.

MUNCHKIN PERFUME?

I HAVEN'T WORN THAT STUFF IN FOREVER. HOW'S HE SMELLIN' IT?

AND WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

SEEMS WE MAY HAVE SOME COMPANY.

LOOKS LIKE *LION* PRINTS. BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT GUY'S BEEN TAKING OUR COURSE ALL THIS TIME. AND JUMPED A GORGE TO BOOT?

ALRIGHT MY LITTLE SCARECROW, LET'S FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD ONCE MORE AND SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND THAT *CRAZY* HORSE OF MINE.

UP YOU GO.

A STROKE OF LUCK FOR OUR TRAVELERS.

A LEAP OF FAITH REWARDED... OR SO IT SEEMS.

HEE HEE HEE!

THE FOREST THEY BELIEVE TO BE THEIR *SALVATION* WILL ONLY BE THEIR UNDOING! THEY WALK TO THE FOREST OF THE KALIDAHS AND SHALL BE TORN TO PIECES.

AHHHH

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HAAAAAAAA!

FLY AHEAD AND LOOT THEIR REMAINS, MY PETS.

BUT TAKE CARE WITH THE RUBY SPURS AND PISTOLS. THEY ARE MINE BY RIGHT AND I WILL HAVE THEM!

YES, MISTRESS.

NOW GO. BRING ME MY SISTER'S RUBY SPURS...

...AND WITH THEIR POWER I WILL PUT AN *END* TO THE WIZARD'S RULE OF OZ!

GETTING DARK. NO TOTO AND NO TELLING HOW BIG THESE WOODS ARE.

WHY DON'T WE JUST TRY TO HUNKER DOWN HERE FOR THE NIGHT?

I'VE SLEPT ON THE GROUND ENOUGH TO KNOW THIS AIN'T GONNA BE THE MOST *COMFY* SPOT TO REST MY BONES, BUT AT LEAST THE FOREST KEEPS IT COOL.

I WAS TRULY GETTIN' FED UP WITH THAT DESERT.

GET SOME REST, KID. WE'LL GET AN EARLY START AND FIND TOTO TOMORROW.

KID! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?

THANKS, BUT YOU KEEP THAT. SEEMS TO ME YOU NEED IT A BIT MORE THAN I DO.

THAT IS THE *CREEPIEST* AND THE *KINDEST* THING I'VE EVER SEEN ALL WRAPPED UP TOGETHER.

NOW SETTLE IN AND GET SOME REST.

WE HAVE A BIG DAY TOMORROW.

YOU *BETTER* NOT SNORE...

SNAP

WHAT IS IT, GIRL? YOU GOT A BURR IN YOUR BUSTLE OR SOMETHIN'?

RRROOOAARRR!

HOLY TOLEDO!

THAT'S NOT A SMILE I EVER NEED TO WAKE UP TO AGAIN!

MOVE YOUR TUSH!

I THINK WE GOT A GOOD LEAD ON 'EM. SURE COULD'A USED TOTO RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

JUST KEEP ON MOVIN' AND WE SHOULD BE FI--

AAAHH!

EASY...

HUH?

GUESS THAT OL' LION *WAS* TRACKIN' US. GLAD HE TURNED OUT TO BE ON OUR SIDE!

I HOPE HE'LL BE OKAY.

GRRRR!

RRRAAAHARR!

BLAMM!!!

RRRAAAAA!

I SUPPOSE YOU WERE GOOD FOR SOMETHIN' AFTER ALL.

TAKE GALE AND I'LL TAKE THE SCARE-CROW. YOUR DEBT'S PAID AFTER THAT.

THE KALIDAHS ARE EASILY STARTLED BUT THERE'S TWO MORE RIGHT BEHIND ME. WE NEED TO GET TO THE END OF THIS FOREST.

WHAT ABOUT ME?

TRY TO KEEP UP!

GIDDY UP!

LOOKS LIKE TIN MAN WAS RIGHT.

WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

TIK TIK

SAVE THE AMMO, GALE. YOU MADE IT.

WHOA....

THEY'RE AS MEAN AS THEY ARE UGLY, BUT THEY GOT A SUPERSTITIOUS STREAK TOO. THEY CAN'T GET PAST THESE PETRIFIED FAMILY MEMBERS.

PETRIFIED? YOU MEAN THOSE WERE REAL? NOT JUST STATUES?

MAN NAMED PIPT USED SOME KINDA "LIQUID OF PETRIFACTION." OR SOME SUCH NONSENSE.

A CUNNING GROUP TO BE SURE. ESCAPING THE KALIDAH'S FOREST IS NOT SOMETHING DONE WITH EASE.

A MORE DIRECT APPROACH IS OBVIOUSLY NEEDED, AND SO IT SHALL BE!

SOME-THING THEY'LL NOT SEE COMING...

...UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

WATCH YOUR BACK, MY PRETTY PRETTY. THOUGH THE WORTHLESS STUFFED ANIMALS THAT INHABIT THE FOREST HAVE MISSED THEIR MARK...

...I...

...NEVER...

...MISS!

AAAHA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

BLAM!

WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME WAS THAT?

SOUNDED LIKE A GUNSHOT--- BUT---

TINK

"---BUT I THINK---

TINK TINK

"---IT MAY BE SOMETHING MORE."

TINK

TINK

TINK

TINK

TINK

Bzzzzzzzz

ZZZzzzzZZZzzzzZZZZzzzzZZZZZZzzzzZZZzzzzzZZZZ
DAMN...
TO BE CONTINUED...
NEXT ISSUE: I AM OZ!

THE WICKED WEST – PART THREE

ALRIGHT, LADIES. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

B-AM

WHY NOT SHOW US THE BULLET'S TRUE POWER, CARDINAAL?

'FRAID I'M NOT QUITE UP TO SPEED WITH THIS LITTLE THING'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL JUST YET.

DON'T WANNA PULL SOMETHING THROUGH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT AND END UP LIKE MY PREDECESSOR.

NO. OF COURSE NOT.

WE ALL KNOW FULL WELL THAT OUR GIFTS ARE CAPABLE OF FAR MORE THAN WHAT WE HAVE CHOSEN TO EXHIBIT TONIGHT.

I THINK OUR ARRANGED MEETING HAS GONE QUITE WELL, AND IN THE TEN YEARS WE HAVE WATCHED OVER OUR INDIVIDUAL LANDS, THERE HAS BEEN NARY A HAPPENSTANCE WORTH PUTTING ON PAPER.

NOT TO TALK OUTTA TURN, BUT HOW ARE THE REST OF US TA KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED IN ANY OF THE OTHER'S JURISDICTIONS? ESPECIALLY CARDINAAL, HERE.

THAT'S TRUE, I SUPPOSE. ONLY BEEN IN OZ FOR ABOUT A YEAR.

AND YOU WOULD PROPOSE, WHAT? A JOURNEY ACROSS THE LANDS OF OZ? THE PEACEKEEPERS TRAVELING TOGETHER? ALL FOR ONE, OR SOME SUCH NONSENSE?

I'D SAY THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PERFECT WAY TA GET US ALL UP TA SPEED AT THE SAME TIME. THANKS FOR OFFERIN' UP THE IDEA.

SOUNDS LIKE A HECK OF A ROAD TRIP TO ME, LADIES. I'M IN! I'VE ONLY SEEN MUNCHKINLAND SO FAR, AND I'VE BEEN ITCHIN' TO SEE WHAT ELSE OZ HAS TO OFFER!

NO.

NO? WHAT'S WRONG? QUADLING COUNTRY NOT UP TA SNUFF?

WHY WOULD OUR VISITING BE A PROBLEM?

QUADLING COUNTRY IS AS QUIET AS IT HAS BEEN IN A CENTURY, THANK YOU. BUT WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, CARDINAAL, IS THAT THE FOUR LANDS OF OZ SIMPLY DO NOT MIX...OFTEN, ANYWAY.

OUTSIDE OF THE GENERAL COMMERCE THAT IS CONDUCTED PRIMARILY THROUGH THE EMERALD CITY, THE GILLIKANS, QUADLINGS, WINKIES AND MUNCHKINS HAVE ALWAYS PREFERRED TO KEEP TO THEMSELVES.

SOUNDS A LITTLE LIKE SEGREGATION. WHO MADE THE RULES THAT SAY THE PEOPLE CAN'T INTERMIX?

NO ONE MADE THE RULE. THERE ISN'T ANYTHING OFFICIAL SAYING THE PEOPLE OF OZ CANNOT VISIT THE LANDS OF ANOTHER. IT'S SIMPLY BEEN THE WAY OF OZ FOR AS LONG AS MOST CAN REMEMBER.

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER, AS THEY SAY. BUT IF YOU ARE UNAWARE OF WHAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT BE MISSING ELSEWHERE, THERE WOULD NEVER BE A REASON FOR YOU TO QUESTION YOUR LIFE, OR WANT FOR SOMETHING YOU DON'T HAVE.

BOUNDARIES KEEP OUR LANDS SAFE FROM THIEVERY, JEALOUSY AND EVEN WAR. WE ARE THE PRIME EXAMPLE OF HOW DESIRE CAN DESTROY SOMETHING THAT WAS DESIGNED FOR THE GOOD OF EVERYONE.

WHAT ARE YOU GOIN' ON ABOUT NOW?

I'VE NO QUARREL WITH YOU, BUT IT WAS QUITE CLEAR YOU WERE ENTHRALLED WITH THE IDEA OF WHAT OUR OWN GIFTS COULD DO. EVEN PUSHING CARDINAAL TO SHOW YOU HOW THE PORTALS HER BULLETS CREATE WORK... YOU'RE TREADING ON GROUND THAT IS NOT YOURS.

I'M SORRY IF YOU GOT THAT IMPRESSION, YOUNG LADY. SURE I WAS EXCITED TO SEE WHAT WE ALL COULD DO, BUT ONLY IN THE NAME OF PROTECTING OZ. PROTECTING WHAT WE SWORE TO PROTECT FROM ALL ENEMIES.

BUT BOTTOM LINE HERE IS THIS: YER THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO'S NOT GAME FOR A LITTLE RECONNOITER OF OZ AS A WHOLE. YER THE ONLY ONE WHO SEEMS TO HAVE A PROBLEM SHOWING US WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO FOR THE LAST DECADE.

WE WERE EACH GIVEN A WEAPON WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES. EACH CAREFULLY CRAFTED BY THE NOMES TO BE USED IN OUR OWN JURISDICTIONS. OUR OWN LANDS. THE POWERS WERE NEVER MEANT TO CROSS OVER, NOR WERE THEY MEANT TO WORK TOGETHER.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND... THIS IS FOR THE GOOD OF NOT JUST OURSELVES, BUT FOR THE GOOD OF OZ ITSELF.

I GET WHERE YER COMIN' FROM, LITTLE LADY. AND YER RIGHT, TA BOOT. BUT I THINK YER MISSIN' A PRETTY LARGE POINT.

AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

WE WERE INSTRUCTED TA MEET HERE. ALL OF US. OUTSIDE OUR LITTLE ZONES. THE WHOLE IDEA WAS FOR US TA LEARN HOW TA USE WHAT WE WERE GIVEN AND THEN JOIN TOGETHER TA PROTECT OZ FROM ITS ENEMIES, BOTH FROM THE OUTSIDE AND THE INSIDE.

SO HERE'S WHAT I PROPOSE. TOMORROW WE RIDE AT DAWN. WE CIRCLE THE LANDS OF OZ TOGETHER AND WE ALL SEE THAT SHE'S SAFE AND SOUND.

AFTER THAT, WE DECIDE WHETHER OZ NEEDS A COLLECTIVE GROUP OF PEACEKEEPERS, OR IF WE SIMPLY NEED TO RETURN TO OUR OWN JURISDICTIONS AND MEET AGAIN IN ANOTHER TEN YEARS.

AGREED.

GOOD GIRL. NOW TELL ME, WHAT'S YER NAME? WE NEVER DID GET TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE OURSELVES WHEN THIS ALL GOT STARTED.

GLINDA. GLINDA OF QUADLING COUNTRY.

GOOD TA MEET YA, GLINDA. YOU CAN CALL ME WINNOW.

NEXT: THEY RIDE!

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TOM HUTCHISON
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ALISSON BORGES
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KATE FINNEGAN
COLORIST

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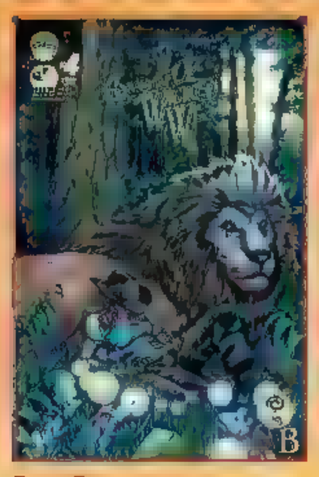

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THE LEGEND OF OZ: THE WICKED WEST

Vol.1 Issue No.4

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Back Up Story

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"Reflection"

Three years after a tornado flung her into Oz, Dorothy Gale seems no closer to finding the Emerald City than the day she arrived. A harrowing escape from the wilds of the Oz forest leads Dorothy and her companions directly to the Emerald City! However--is anyone still there!?

THE LEGEND OF OZ: THE WICKED WEST Vol.1 Issue No.4

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ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
ARE THOSE...
...BEES?
SOUNDS LIKE IT. CAN'T GET A GOOD LOOK, BUT THAT SOUND'S PRETTY UNMISTAKABLE.
ONE THING'S FER SURE, THOUGH.
WHAT'S THAT?
THIS AIN'T GONNA FEEL GOOD.
WHAT IS IT, DARLIN'?

LOOKS LIKE SHE WANTS YOU TA HIT THE DIRT.

WHY?

GOT ME.

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW HER PLAN, PARTNER, BUT TAKE A LOAD OFF.

WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE DOIN', YOU'D BETTER MAKE IT *QUICK!*

NO!

OH, KID. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS...
HMPH. LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT'VE MISJUDGED THAT THING AFTER ALL.
HOLD YER GROUND... STEADY...
ZZZZZZZZZZ

GOOD GOD... NO...

TING
TANG
TING
TUNK
TANG
TINK
TINK
TANG
TUNK
TING
WELL...

THAT WASN'T *SO* BAD.

ARE YOU OKAY? I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA LOSE *TWO* FRIENDS IN THE SAME DAY.

THANKS FOR THINKING OF ME.

I WAS TALKING TO YOUR HORSE.

HMPH. I THINK WE'D BEST KEEP MOVING.

WHY? WHAT *ARE* THOSE THINGS?

JUST A GUESS, BUT IF I'M RIGHT WE'VE GOT COMP--

LOOK OUT!

WHUMP-UMP

THUD

THEY'RE COVERED IN BEE STINGS. POOR THINGS.

DON'T FEEL TOO BAD FOR 'EM. THEY JUST GOT THEMSELVES CAUGHT IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.

WITCH OF THE ***WEST*** DON'T CARE WHO GETS HURT SO LONG AS SHE GETS WHAT SHE WANTS.

AND RIGHT NOW I'M GUESSIN' SHE WANTS YOU PRETTY BAD.

YOU SURE THIS IS GONNA WORK? WE DON'T NEED TO SAY ANY MAGIC WORDS OR ANYTHING?

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH. COME OVER BY THE FIRE AND WARM UP, GALE.

SHE CAN HANDLE THE REST ON HER OWN. WE SHOULDA LEFT HER AND PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THE WITCH.

THIS IS PRETTY CREEPY STUFF.

DON'T WORRY. THOSE THINGS ARE *NOTORIOUSLY* DIFFICULT TO KILL.

'LESS, OF COURSE, YOU TAKE A LITTLE *FIRE* TO 'EM.

AND WHAT ABOUT THIS *BIG* FELLA? SEEMS HE AIN'T QUITE THE *COWARD* I TOOK HIM FOR BACK IN TOWN.

MAYBE I CAN HELP...

THIS MAKE-UP THE *MONKEYS* PUT ON HIS FACE DON'T COME OFF EASY.

MONKEYS DIDN'T PAINT HIM UP.

THE MAKE-UP AND THE CROWN ARE HIS *OWN* DOIN'.

I DON'T THINK I GET IT.

HE'S NO COWARD IN THE STRICTEST OF TERMS.

LET'S JUST SAY HE'S A ***SENSITIVE SOUL*** AND LEAVE IT AT THAT.

OH.

OHHHH...

NOW I'M WITH YOU.

SEE? TOLD YOU SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.

"OZ IS CERTAINLY FILLED WITH THINGS I'M *NEVER* GONNA TRULY UNDERSTAND."

"THERE'S A LOT TA LEARN. CAN'T EXPECT TA FIGURE IT ALL OUT OVER-NIGHT."

"I'M NOT PLANNIN' TA BE HERE ANOTHER *THREE* YEARS, TIN MAN.

"WE FIND THE EMERALD CITY AND THIS WIZARD I WAS TOLD ABOUT, I'LL BE BACK HOME BEFORE YOU CAN SAY *'KANSAS'*."

HEY! WHATCHA DOIN', GIRL?

NICE TO HAVE YOU BACK!

LET'S GET SOME SHUT EYE. WE GOT A BIG DAY AHEAD OF US.

AND WE GOT A NEW ROAD TO FOLLOW.

THROUGH FOREST DENSE AND FILLED WITH HATE, YOU MUST MOVE FAST, YOU MUST NOT WAIT! THEN TWICE AROUND THE TALLEST TREE AND HEAD DUE WEST TILL THE CASTLE YOU SEE!

THE CURSED SUN RISES QUICKLY TODAY. THANKFULLY, WE ARE ALMOST HOME.

WELCOME HOME, MISTRESS.

HOW WAS YOUR NIGHT?

I'VE NO TIME FOR TALK. WHERE IS THE GIRL?

MISTRESS, OUR SISTERS HAVE NOT YET RETURNED.

IMPOSSIBLE.

UNLESS THE BEES KILLED THEM AS WELL...

MISTRESS?

THEY ARE DEAD?

ARE YOU SAYING...

...MY SISTERS ARE DEAD?

FACE ME, WITCH!

HAPPILY!

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE ON YOUR MIND!

OR PERHAPS I'LL JUST PULL THE TRIGGER AND SEE FOR MYSELF!

NONE OF YOU FORGET WHO HOLDS THE GOLDEN CAP.

MISTRESS, PLEASE! FORGIVE HIM!

WE ARE YOURS TO COMMAND!

GOOD. NOW LET ME BE CLEAR: I WANT THAT GIRL, NOT EXCUSES! BRING HER TO ME...

"...DEAD OR ALIVE."

GOTTA SAY I'M GETTIN' A LITTLE NERVOUS THAT WE HAVEN'T FOUND TOTO YET.

ONLY SO FAR HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN. WE'LL CATCH UP.

HE COULD BE ANYWHERE.

EVEN OZ HAS BOUNDARIES, GALE.

Apotes

=YAAAWN=

DANG. I FEEL LIKE I NEED A NAP.

IT'S NO MORE THAN TEN IN THE MORNING. I THOUGHT YOU WERE CUT FROM A *TOUGHER* CLOTH THAN THAT.

HOLD ON... =SNIFF SNIFF=

WHAT IS IT?

GET YOUR TAIL ON THE LION AND MAKE HIM *RUN*, GALE!

QUIT YER LOLLYGAGGIN' AND *MOVE!*

LET'S GIT!

"SHE COMES. SHE BRINGS ALLIES."

"YOU BELIEVE SHE WILL FIND HER WAY HERE, MOMBI?"

"SHE HAS FOUND THE CORRECT PATH, AND IT IS ONLY TWO DAYS JOURNEY UNTIL SHE ARRIVES.

"SHE MAKES FRIENDS AT EACH TURN. SOME OF WHICH COULD SPOIL OUR DESIGNS."

"WRETCHED MICE!"

"YOU MUST PLAY THIS PORTION OF THE GAME CAREFULLY...

"...OR ALL COULD BE LOST IN THE FLASH OF A ***RUBY*** BULLET."

WELL I'LL BE TARRED AND FEATHERED!

THAT'S *IT*... ISN'T IT?

DON'T KNOW. NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE. DANG ROAD IS ***FLOATIN'*** ALL THE WAY TO THE GROUND, SO I'D GUESS THERE'S SOME KINDA MAGIC IN THE AREA. BUT HOW DO WE GET DOWN THERE?

EASY...

...JUST FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD.

I ***KNEW*** YOU WERE GONNA SAY THAT.

NOT EXACTLY WHAT I IMAGINED.

I FIGURED THERE'D BE A BIT MORE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE.

I HATE QUIET.

WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

THESE ARE FRESH. NO MORE THAN A FEW HOURS.

WE AIN'T ALONE.

HUH?

TOTO!

HOW IN HEAVEN'S NAME DID YOU END UP HERE?

TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE: OZ!

OZ. HOME OF THE QUADLINGS, AND WATCHED OVER BY GLINDA, THE PEACEKEEPER OF THE SOUTH.

THE PEACEKEEPER'S TOUR OF OZ BEGINS HERE, MUCH TO GLINDA'S DISMAY.

NOW I KNOW WHY YOU DIDN'T WANT US STARTIN' IN QUADLING COUNTRY, GLINDA.

I'M SURE I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE ON ABOUT, WINNOW.

ARE THE QUADLINGS BUILDING A CASTLE?

YES, CARDINAAL. AND?

UM... NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.

SPIT IT OUT, CARDINAAL. YOU'RE ONLY THINKIN' WHAT THE REST OF US ARE.

ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I HAVE IN SOME WAY GOADED THE QUADLINGS TO BUILD THIS CASTLE?

YEP.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ACCUSING ME OF SUCH THINGS? THE QUADLINGS OFFERED TO BUILD THIS CASTLE FOR ME, IT'S TRUE, BUT I PLAYED NO PART IN THE DECISION!

IF YOU SAY SO, GLINDA. I'D JUST HATE TO FIND OUT THAT THE ONE OF US WHO PROTESTED THE MOST ABOUT OUR PRIVATE TOUR OF OZ WAS HOLDING HER PEOPLE UNDER HER THUMB.

HEY, NOW. LET'S KEEP OUR COOL, LADIES. THE MUNCHKINS PUT ME UP IN A NIFTY LITTLE PLACE, TOO. WE CAN'T BE JUDGIN' THE WAY EVERYONE HANDLES THEIR BUSINESS.

I, TOO, HAVE BEEN WELL TAKEN CARE OF BY THE GILLIKANS.

FAIR ENOUGH, LADIES! NOW LET'S PONY UP AND HAVE A LOOK DOWNTOWN! LAST ONE THERE IS A FEATHERED MONKEY!

MAKE WAY, WHIPPERSNAPPERS!

HALT!

YOU GO NO FURTHER!

DECLARE YOURSELF!

HOLY... WHOA!

ARE YOU KIDS CRAZY? I COULDA RUN YA STRAIGHT THROUGH!

I'LL ASK ONE FINAL TIME FOR YOU TO DECLARE YOURSELF AND YOUR BUSINESS HERE.

IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE THAT, WE SUGGEST YOU SKEDADDLE.

AND DON'T BE SHOOTIN' YOUR MOUTH OFF.

MUCH AS I ADMIRE YER GUMPTION, I THINK YER IN NEED OF MORE THAN A SIMPLE INTRODUCTION.

CLICK CLICK CLICK

I DON'T THINK SO.

EASY, NOW. NO NEED FOR THAT.

AND BESIDES, WE BOTH KNOW THE GUN'S MADE FOR HEALIN', NOT FER KILLIN'.

JUST BECAUSE I SHOWED YOU ONE OF THE BULLET'S ABILITIES, DOESN'T MEAN THEY DON'T HAVE MORE.

I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD HAPPEN. YOU CAN'T COME RACING INTO A TOWN YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT LIKE SOME KIND OF WHEELER!

I WASN'T GONNA HURT THE LITTLE PEAS, JUST SHOW 'EM WHO I AM.

LIKE THEY ASKED.

IF YOU SAY SO.

MY LITTLE GUARDIANS! SOUND ON THE GOOSE, YOU ARE!

WELCOME HOME, GLINDA!

ARE YOU HERE TO STAY?

WHO ARE YOUR FRIENDS?

PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF NAHON, TODAY YOU ARE FORTUNATE TO BE THE FIRST TO MEET A VERY SPECIAL GROUP OF PEOPLE.

WE ARE THE PEACEKEEPERS OF OZ!

NEXT ISSUE: SO BEGINS THE FALL...

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THE LEGEND OF OZ: THE WICKED WEST

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Back Up Story

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Fabio Nahon
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Josh Reed
lettering

"Showdown"

Gale's quest to find the Emerald City and hopefully return home to Kansas has nearly cost her and her friends their lives on more than one occasion. But now, after three years of wandering the Oz desert and after surviving the wilds of Oz's forests, canyons, witches and even a floating Yellow Brick Road, Gale has finally arrived at the Emerald City.

But where is everyone?

A BIG DOG INK PRODUCTION

THE LEGEND OF OZ: THE WICKED WEST, Vol. 1 Issue [illegible]

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EXCUSE ME...
CLICK CLICK
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOUNG LADY.
COME ON OUT, NICE AND SLOW.
I'VE NO INTENTIONS OF HURTING YOU.
PLEASE...

"...COME INSIDE."
SO, YOU AND YOUR FATHER ARE THE ONLY ONES IN TOWN?
THE EMERALD CITY HAS BEEN ABANDONED FOR MANY YEARS.
WHERE DID EVERY-ONE GO?
BEL--
SCRAPS! WHAT'S ALL THIS?
HOLD ON NOW. THE YOUNG LADY INVITED US IN OUT OF THE SUN, IS ALL.
PAPA!
I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU PEOPLE TO LEAVE.

BUT, PAPA...
AND WHAT SORT OF ANSWERS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
'FRAID WE WON'T BE LEAVING TILL WE GET A FEW ANSWERS.
FOR ONE, WHERE'S THE WIZARD?
I... UH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU--
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES WAS THAT?
WHAT IS ALL THIS?

THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
LOOK, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND THIS PLACE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS YOU'RE DOING HERE. I ONLY WANT ONE THING.
I'M HERE TO SEE THE WIZARD, AND I'LL DO IT WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.
WHAT'S THIS?
JUST PUT THEM ON. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND SHORTLY.

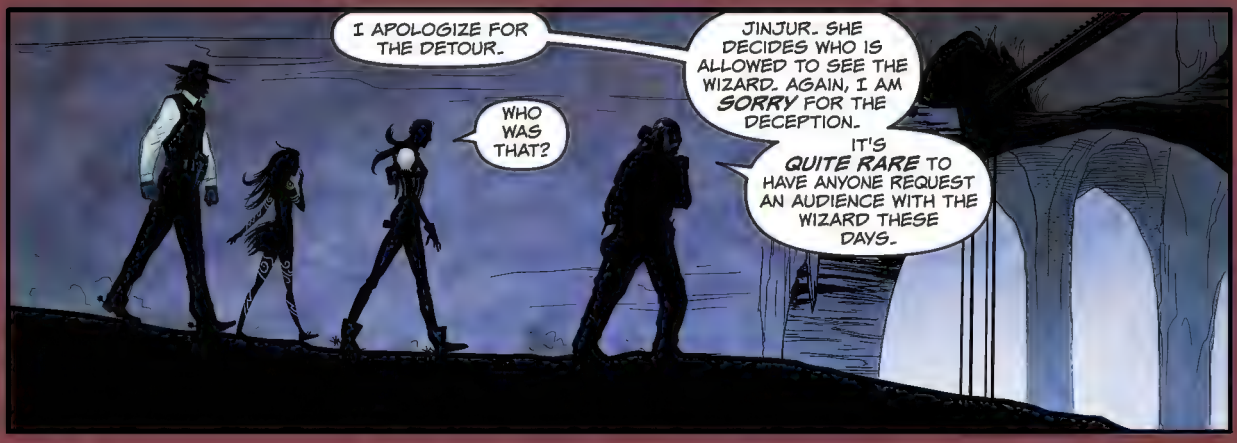
SO, DO YOU HAVE A NAME?
YOU MAY CALL ME DR. PIPT.
PIPT? LIKE THE PIPT WHO FROZE THOSE BIG OL' KALIDAHS IN THE FOREST?
THE SAME.
JUST WHAT SORT OF DOCTOR ARE YOU, DR. PIPT?
A DOCTOR OF THINGS YOU HAVE NOT IMAGINED IN THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR LIFE, MISS...?
GALE. JUST GALE.
AND THE GLASSES ARE FOR...?
YOUR EYES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE INTENSITY OF THE EMERALDS' GLOW, MISS GALE.
SAFETY FIRST IN THE EMERALD CITY.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE TOWN ABOVE WAS BUILT OVER THESE EMERALD DEPOSITS.
TARNATION!
THIS IS SOME KINDA VIEW, DOC.
AND NOW I CAN OFFICIALLY WELCOME YOU TO...

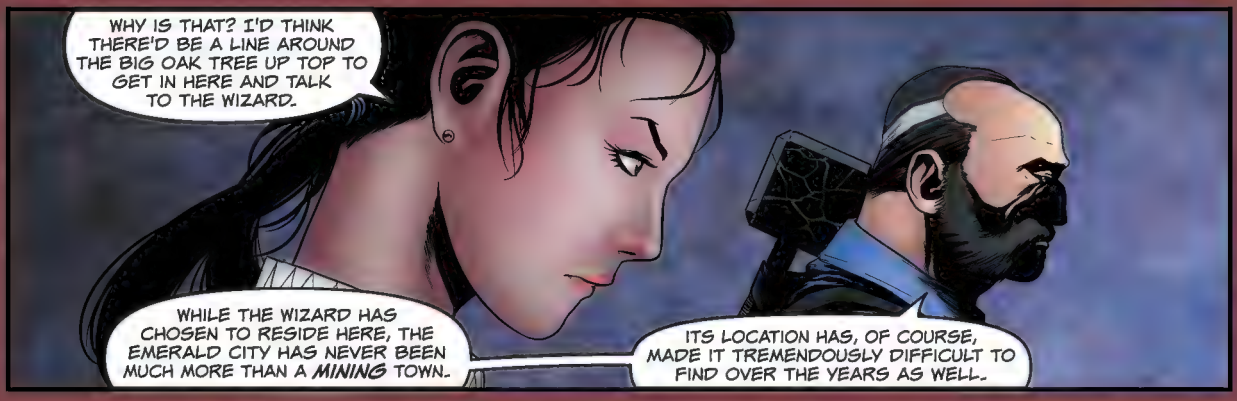
...THE EMERALD CITY!
I HAD HEARD THE STORIES BUT NEVER THOUGHT ANY OF 'EM WERE TRUE.
JUST FOLLOW ME DOWN THIS PATH AND THE WIZARD WILL DECIDE IF HE WILL ACCEPT VISITORS.

LEAD THE WAY.
WHAT IS IT, GIRL? HEY! PUT YOUR GOGGLES BACK ON BEFORE YOU GO BLIND!
HEY!
I'M GONNA HAVE TO TAKE A SWITCH TO YOU, YOUNG LADY!
DANG IT, KID! WHERE'D YOU--

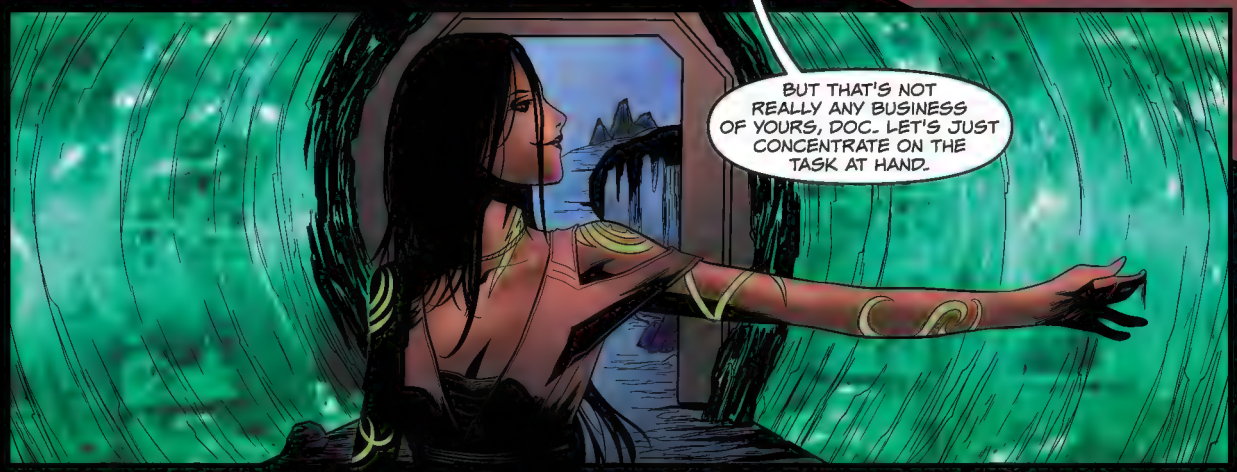
SAY, DOC...
YES?
I'M THINKIN' MAYBE YOU'RE NOT TAKIN' US TO THE RIGHT PLACE.
IF I COULD HAVE JUST ONE MOMENT...
SEEMS TO ME YOU ALREADY HAD YOUR MOMENT, DOC. NOW WE NEED TO HAVE OURS.
PLEASE. JUST ONE MOMENT.
GIVE IT UP, DOC. WE AREN'T HERE TA PLAY GAMES.

PIPT!
WAS SHE WEARING THE RUBY SPURS?
SEEMS SO.
IS THAT POSSIBLE?
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, LISSETTE.
TAKE THEM.
IT SEEMS THE FATES HAVE SMILED UPON US THIS DAY.


I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DETOUR.
WHO WAS THAT?
JINJUR. SHE DECIDES WHO IS ALLOWED TO SEE THE WIZARD. AGAIN, I AM SORRY FOR THE DECEPTION.
IT'S QUITE RARE TO HAVE ANYONE REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH THE WIZARD THESE DAYS.


WHY IS THAT? I'D THINK THERE'D BE A LINE AROUND THE BIG OAK TREE UP TOP TO GET IN HERE AND TALK TO THE WIZARD.
WHILE THE WIZARD HAS CHOSEN TO RESIDE HERE, THE EMERALD CITY HAS NEVER BEEN MUCH MORE THAN A MINING TOWN.
ITS LOCATION HAS, OF COURSE, MADE IT TREMENDOUSLY DIFFICULT TO FIND OVER THE YEARS AS WELL.

CAN I ASK WHAT IT IS YOU'RE HERE FOR?
I WAS TOLD BY SOMEONE IN MUNCHKINLAND THAT THE WIZARD WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND ME BACK HOME TO KANSAS.
AND THE MUNCHKINS GAVE YOU THOSE SPURS AND GUNS?
YOU COULD SAY THAT, I SUPPOSE.


BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY ANY BUSINESS OF YOURS, DOC. LET'S JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND.

AS YOU WISH. BEYOND THIS DOOR LIES THE AUDIENCE CHAMBER. JINJUR HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED YOUR ARRIVAL, SO THE WIZARD SHOULD BE WITH YOU SOON.
PLEASE KEEP YOUR QUESTIONS QUICK AND CONCISE AS THE WIZARD HAS LITTLE PATIENCE FOR EXTRA-NEOUS DIALOGUE.
I CANNOT SAY WHETHER HE WILL HELP YOU OR NOT, BUT DO YOUR-SELVES A FAVOR AND REMAIN POLITE...
...EVEN IF HE IS NOT.
ARE THERE ANY LIGHTS IN HERE?
YOUR WAY WILL BE LIT AS YOU STEP ON THE PATH. FOLLOW THE PATH AND YOU WILL FIND THE WIZARD.

HERE GOES NOTHIN'.
PIPT WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT THE WAY BEIN' LIT FOR US.
HEY! HOLD IT, KID!
THAT GIRL SURE HAS GOT SOME SPIRIT.
RECKON WE BETTER CATCH UP TO HER.

YOU THINK THERE'S A BOTTOM TO THIS PLACE?
BRIDGE HAS TO BE ATTACHED TO SOMETHIN'. LEAST I HOPE SO.
IS THIS IT? LOOKS LIKE THOSE ROOTS COME DOWN FROM THE BIG OAK TREE UP TOP.
MUST BE WATER DOWN BELOW, THEN. LOOKS LIKE YOUR GIRL LOST HER NERVE WHEN SHE GOT HERE. HEH HEH!
DON'T WORRY, KID. I WON'T LET NOTHIN' HAPPEN TO YOU.
DON'T HURT TO BE PREPARED, THOUGH...
DEAR GOD!

I...
... AM...
...OZ!

WHO ARE YOU?
I--- I---
HEY!
POLITE. REMEMBER?
SORRY. UH--- MY NAME IS--- DOROTHY GALE.
AND YOU WEAR THE TRAPPINGS OF THE WITCH OF THE EAST!

THEY WERE GIFTS. GLINDA GAVE THEM TO ME IN MUNCHKINLAND. IT SEEMS MY BARN FELL ON--
AND YOU COME HERE TO USURP ME? YOU, MOST WICKED OF WITCHES!
OH NO, SIR! I AM HERE TO MERELY ASK FOR YOUR HELP IN GETTING HOME.
AND YOUR FRIEND?
HE IS JUST MY ESCORT, BUT IF POSSIBLE, HE COULD USE A LITTLE HEART IN MY OPINION.
AND THIS?
A FRIEND. SOMEONE WHO LIVES SIMPLY FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT. I WISH I KNEW WHAT WAS GOIN' ON IN HER MIND--- ASSUMING SHE EVEN HAS ONE.

AND YOU WOULD ASK ME TO RETURN YOU HOME?
PLEASE. TO KANSAS.
AND WHAT WILL YOU DO IN RETURN?
YOU WOULD HAVE MY NEVER-ENDING GRATITUDE.
I HAVE THE GRATITUDE OF AN ENTIRE PLANE OF EXISTENCE. IT IS IN ABUNDANCE HERE. YOU WILL DO SOMETHING OF MY CHOOSING.
ANYTHING.
YOU WILL TRAVEL THROUGH THE HAUNTED FOREST AND FIND THE RESTING PLACE OF THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST.
HAUNTED FOREST? HOW WOULD I FIND THE WITCH IN A FOREST?
THROUGH FOREST DENSE AND FILLED WITH HATE, YOU MUST MOVE FAST, YOU MUST NOT WAIT! THEN TWICE AROUND THE TALLEST TREE AND HEAD DUE WEST TILL THE CASTLE YOU SEE!
FIND THE CASTLE OF THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST... AND KILL HER. BRING ME HER TRAPPINGS AND I SHALL RETURN YOU TO YOUR... KANSAS.
KINDA ABRUPT PERSONALITY, WASN'T HE?
HE? LOOKED LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE TO ME.
I JUST SAW A BIG FLOATING HEAD WITH NO BODY.
I SAW THE UGLIEST BEAST YOU'D EVER WANT TO LAY EYES ON.
ODD.
I WONDER WHAT SHE SAW.

DON'T RIGHTLY MATTER. ALL THAT DOES IS WHETHER YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND THE WITCH...
AND KILL HER.
THAT WITCH HAS BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME. LONGER THAN THE OTHER WITCHES BY FAR. SOME SAY SHE'S FOUND A WAY TO LIVE FOREVER.
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HER?
ONCE. THE FLYING MONKEYS ARE HER PETS. SHE CAME INTO TOWN A FEW YEARS BACK. THAT'S WHEN EVERYONE LEFT. EVEN THE LOLLIPOP GUILD CANDY STORE. SHAME TOO. MUNCHKINS MAKE THE BEST SUGAR BREAD IN OZ.
SHE WAS WRAPPED UP IN BLACK BANDAGES UNDER THOSE CLOAKS SHE WEARS. WHAT YOU COULD SEE OF HER WAS WEATHERED AND WORN OUT. I'D SAY SHE'S PUSHING A COUPLE HUNDRED YEARS OLD IF THE STORIES ARE TRUE.
IF SHE'S LEARNED TO STAY ALIVE THIS LONG, ARE THESE RUBY BULLETS GONNA BE ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF HER?
LET'S FIND OUT, SHALL WE?

AAAHA HA HA HA HA HAAA!
THE FOREST LIVES AND BREATHES AGAIN. THE SPIRITS WAKE, THE AIR GROWS THIN! A BRANCH, A ROOT, A SHARD OF BARK, THEY LIVE AGAIN WITH COLD, DARK HEARTS!

GALE, GIT OUT! WE'VE BEEN HAD!
NO!
YOU LET THEM GO! YOU *WANT* ME? I'M RIGHT HERE!
IN TIME, MY PRETTY.

HOLY MOLY!
FLY! FLY! BRING HER TO THE CASTLE!
HEEEEEELP!
NEXT ISSUE:
FACE TO FACE AT HIGH NOON
TO BE CONCLUDED...

OZ. SOUTH.
QUADLING COUNTRY AND THE JURISDICTION OF GLINDA.
PEACE. IT WAS IMPLIED IN THEIR VERY NAME AS THE PEACEKEEPERS OF OZ.
FOR A DECADE THE PEACEKEEPERS PERFORMED AND FULFILLED THEIR DUTIES TO THE FOUR LANDS OF OZ. BUT NOW, THEY RIDE TOGETHER. UNIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER A BANNER OF PERSONAL EXPLORATION.
BUT THIS EXPLORATION OF OZ WAS NEVER INTENDED.
IN THE EYES OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF OZ, THE BOUNDARIES OF EACH LAND WERE NOT TO BE CROSSED EXCEPT TO REACH THE EMERALD CITY.
WINNOW HAD TAKEN THE LEAD AND COERCED THE OTHERS TO RIDE TOGETHER AND TO SEE WHAT OZ HAD TO OFFER THEM.
THE QUADLINGS DID NOT DISAPPOINT.
MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE, M' LADY?

BUT WINNOW'S MOTIVES WERE SUSPECT FROM THE START.
EVEN IF GLINDA WAS THE ONLY ONE TO FEEL THE WEIGHT OF WINNOW'S GAZE UPON THE PEACEKEEPER'S GIFTS.
WINNOW WAS INTENT ON LEARNING WHAT POWERS THE JEWELED WEAPONS MIGHT HOLD...
...AND CARDINAAL WAS NEVER FAR FROM WINNOW'S SIGHT OR HER THOUGHTS.
THE CELEBRATION CONTINUED INTO THE NIGHT UNTIL FINALLY THE PEACEKEEPERS FOUND THEIR BUNKS AND ALLOWED THEMSELVES A NIGHT'S REST.

THE QUADLINGS WERE QUITE THE GRACIOUS BUNCH, GLINDA. THANKS FOR LETTIN' US SEE YER HOME BASE.
IT WAS A PLEASURE, WINNOW. AND I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SO STANDOFFISH WHEN YOU FIRST SUGGESTED THIS TRIP. YOU WERE RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD SEE THAT WHICH WE HAVE ALL SWORN TO PROTECT.
I HAD A BLAST! THAT BOY SURE KNEW HOW TO HANDLE HIMSELF ON THE DANCE FLOOR!
WHEN WE ARRIVE IN GILLIKAN COUNTRY, I SHALL INTRODUCE YOU TO QUEEN QUELALA. IF YOU THOUGHT THE QUADLINGS WERE GRACIOUS, YOU ARE IN STORE FOR A TREAT!
AND WITH LUCK, WE MAY SEE MEMBERS OF THE FLYING MONKEY TRIBES THAT LIVE IN THE SURROUNDING JUNGLES.
FLYING MONKEYS?
I DO BELIEVE THAT'S SOMETHIN' I'D LIKE TA SEE.

BUT BEFORE WE HEAD NORTH, LET'S SKIP THROUGH MY NECK OF THE WOODS!
WINNOW... WHAT IS THAT?
THIS IS THE STONE SPIRE OF THE WEST.
AND YOU GAVE ME GRIEF FOR THE QUADLINGS BUILDING ME A CASTLE?
SHE'S GOTCHA THERE, WINNOW.
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, LADIES, BUT THE WINKIES DIDN'T BUILD THIS FOR ME. THE STONE SPIRE HAS BEEN HERE FOR LONGER THAN ANY OF US HAVE BEEN IN BOOTS.
HEY!
DON'T BE SO SENSITIVE, LADY.
SO HOW DO WE GET IN? WHERE'S THE DOOR?
THE ONLY DOOR IS AT THE TOP, CARDINAAL. THERE'S A SORT OF BALCONY UP THERE, AND THAT'S THE ONLY WAY IN...
...UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO TRY YOUR HAND WITH THOSE FANCY DOORWAYS YOU CLAIM YOUR RUBY BULLETS CAN OPEN UP, CARDINAAL.

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, WINNOW?
WHA...?
HAS THIS BEEN YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG?
THIS SPIRE IS NOT YOURS! NOR ARE CARDINAAL'S RUBY PISTOLS! YOUR INABILITY TO ENTER THIS MONUMENT DOES NOT ENTITLE YOU TO THE GIFTS WE WERE EACH GIVEN, NOR THE POWERS THEY CONTAIN.
HEY, NOW. I WAS JUST SUGGESTIN' WE GIVE IT A TRY. ONLY OTHER WAY IN IS TO FLY AND NONE OF US HAVE THAT POWER.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO RUFFLE ANYONE'S FEATHERS OR FRILLIES, GLINDA.
PERHAPS... THE MONKEYS COULD ASSIST US.
ABSOLUTELY NOT. I'LL NOT ALLOW THIS FARCE TO CONTINUE ANY FURTHER. WE HAVE DONE WHAT WAS REQUIRED OF US...AND MORE.

I WANT ALL OF YOU BACK ON YOUR HORSES AND BACK TO YOUR JURISDICTIONS. THE PEACEKEEPERS OF OZ HAVE DUTIES TO PERFORM IN THEIR HOME LANDS, AND THIS DOES NOT QUALIFY.
NOW LOOK HERE, GLINDA. WE ALL TOOK OUR VOWS AND WE ALL KNOW OUR DUTIES TO OUR LANDS AS WELL AS TO OZ ITSELF.
BUT IF YOU THINK FOR A SECOND THAT WE'RE ELECTIN' YOU LEADER OR THAT WE YOU MIGHT'VE PUT A TOUCH OF FEAR INTO US AS A COLLECTIVE... YER DEAD WRONG.
NO SHE'S NOT.
EH?
I STAND WITH GLINDA, AND I SAY WE ALL HEAD HOME.
TO BE CONCLUDED?

ASPEN
#6
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BIG DOG INK
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THE LEGEND OF OZ: THE WICKED WEST

Vol. 1 Issue No. 6

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pencils & digital inks

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HDE
lettering

Back Up Story

Tom Hutchison
script

Fabio Nahon
art

Ceci de la Cruz
colors

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lettering

"Wickedness"

The Emerald City is found, and within its walls the almighty Wizard. But the story does not end there. The Wizard has tasked Dorothy with bringing him the weapons of the Wicked Witch of the West and has sent Gale and her friends to an almost certain doom. The Witch is waiting for them in the Haunted Forest and the flying monkeys have snatched Gale from her saddle. Now the sun sets and the final showdown awaits...

A BIG DOG INK PRODUCTION

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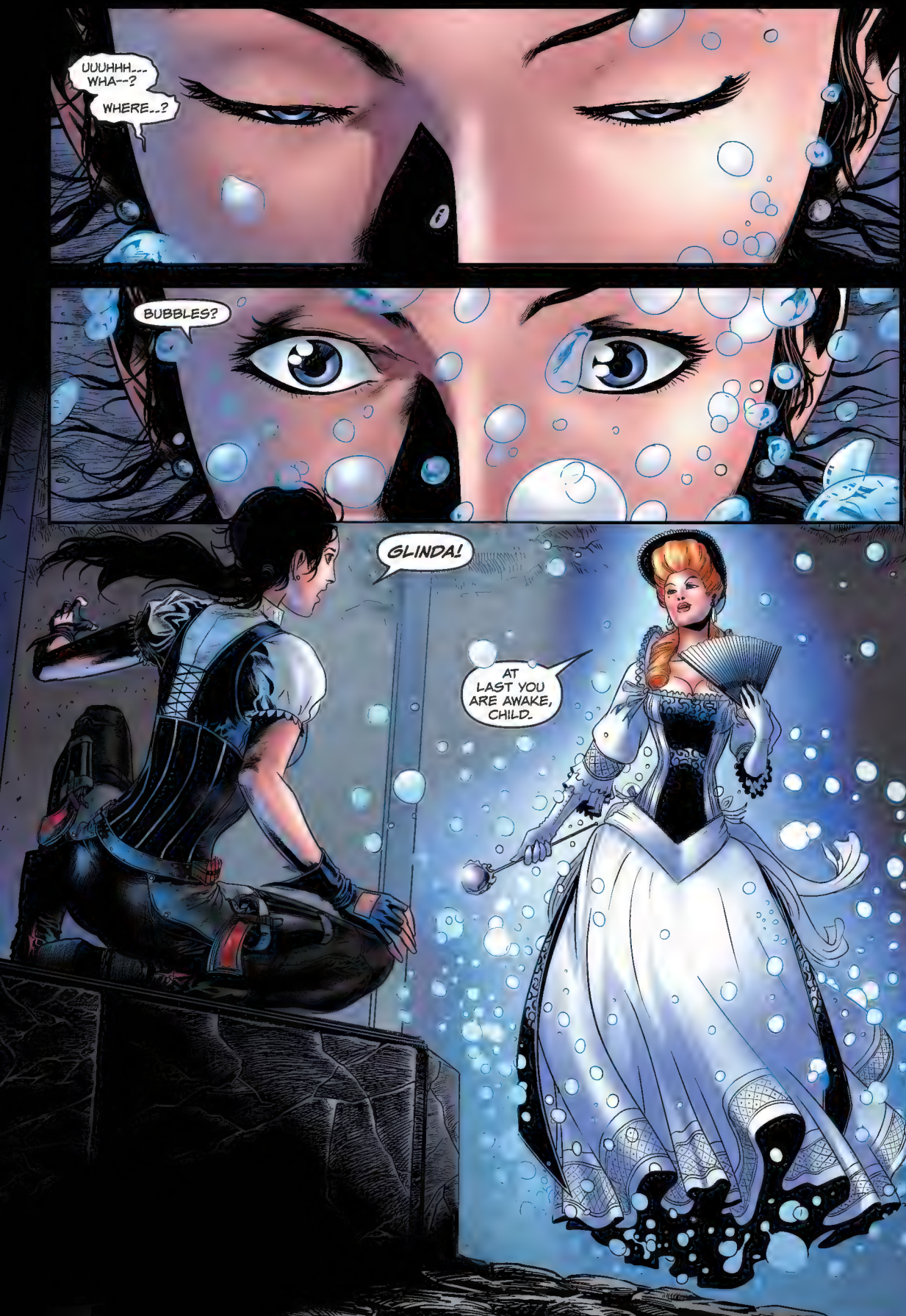

UUUHHH... WHA--?
WHERE...?
BUBBLES?
GLINDA!
AT LAST YOU ARE AWAKE, CHILD.

WHERE THE HECK AM I? LAST I REMEMBER, THOSE DAMNED MONKEYS GOT THEIR PAWS ON ME.
YOU ARE IN THE CASTLE OF THE WITCH OF THE WEST, DOROTHY.
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
I APOLOGISE.
FORGET IT. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW. WHAT'S THIS?
THE SANDS OF TIME, GALE...
...AND THEY ARE QUICKLY RUNNING OUT.

YOU ARE A PRISONER OF THE WITCH OF THE WEST, AND WITH EVERY GRAIN OF SAND THAT FALLS YOU ARE THAT MUCH CLOSER TO YOUR DEATH, AND HER VICTORY.
WELL GET ME OUTTA HERE THEN, GLINDA! THIS ROOM'S GOT NO DOORS OR WINDOWS!
MY ABILITIES TO AID YOU ARE LIMITED, BUT YOU DO, IN FACT, HAVE THE ABILITY TO LEAVE THIS ROOM... TO LEAVE OZ... ANY TIME YOU WISH.
YOUR WEAPONS HAVE SPECIAL CHARMS THAT WERE CAST UPON THEM DURING THEIR CREATION, AS DO ALL THE WEAPONS OF THE WITCHES OF OZ.
YOUR RUBY BULLETS CAN OPEN A DOOR FROM HERE TO ANYWHERE.
YOU NEED ONLY CALL IT OUT.
YOU'RE TELLIN' ME I COULD'VE BEEN HOME ALL THIS TIME?!
THREE YEARS I'VE BEEN IN OZ AND YOU WAIT TILL NOW TO OPEN YOUR TRAP?

SO IF ALL THE WITCH'S GUNS HAVE CHARMS, WHAT DOES YOURS DO?
MY WEAPON'S CHARM IS NOT YOUR CONCERN. YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.
WHAT YOU DO WITH THE INFORMATION IS YOUR OWN DECISION.
REMEMBER THIS, GALE OF KANSAS...

...AND YOUR JOURNEY IS DONE.
GLINDA? IT WAS JUST A DREAM?
DAMN. NOT A DREAM AFTER ALL. NOT ALL OF IT, ANYWAY. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, AND FAST.
MIGHT AS WELL TEST WHAT GLINDA TOLD ME IN THE DREAM.
DAMN WITCH HELD OUT ON ME FOR THREE YEARS. I COULDA BEEN HOME WITH AUNT EM, SAFE AND SOUND. TIME TO PUT IT TO THE TEST.
LET'S SEE... "THREE SEPARATE SHOTS WORK TOGETHER WHEN CALLED..."
"...JUST NAME A PLACE, A TIME OR A LOVED ONE..."

SIMPLE ENOUGH.
AFTER ALL, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.
I HATE BUBBLES...
TSSS
BLAM
MISTRESS?
A GUN-SHOT?
SILENCE!
BLAM
GUNSHOTS IN THE CASTLE. AND BY THE SOUND THE BULLETS MAKE AS THEY CUT THROUGH THE AIR...
BLAM
RUBY.

RUBY!!!
THIS IS GLINDA'S DOING! YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE. THE SOUTH WILL PAY FOR YOUR DEFIANCE OF THE WEST, YOU PRIM AND PROPER PEST!
TO THE TOWER!
FASTER, MY STEED! PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT!
SPEED AND POWER! REACH THE PINNACLE AND STOP FOR NOTHING!

STRAIGHT THROUGH!
I'LL NOT LOSE HER NOW!

WHERE ARE YOU, MY PRETTY? YOU HAVE A DESTINY TO FACE...
...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
NO! SHE HAS ESCAPED! A POX ON THE SOUTH, AND ON YOU, GLINDA!
BUT WHERE IN THE LANDS OF OZ HAS SHE---?
CAN IT BE?
SHE FLEES! SHE HAS OPENED A DOORWAY THAT CONNECTS OZ TO...
...KANSAS!
ANOTHER DOORWAY CONNECTING OZ TO NEW WORLDS. HER SIMPLE MIND DOES NOT EVEN BEGIN TO GRASP THE CONSEQUENCES OF HER ACTIONS!
HAAA HA HA HA HA HA!

WHERE ARE YOU, LITTLE ONE?
YOU HAVE NOW FAILED YOUR FRIENDS ON TWO PLANES OF EXISTENCE BY DESERTING OZ AND LEADING ME HERE.
FACE ME, MY COWARDLY BEAUTY!
WE DON'T GROW COWARDS IN KANSAS, YOU WITCH!
YOU WANT ME, I'M RIGHT HERE.
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE IT.

I HAVE TRAVELED TO A DOZEN WORLDS. I HAVE SEEN MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER DREAM OF. AND NOW YOUR HOME, THIS... KANSAS...WILL BE CRUSHED BENEATH MY HEELS.
I KNEW LEADING YOU HERE WAS GONNA BE A RISK, BUT IT WAS ONE I HAD TO TAKE.
BUT DON'T MISTAKE A GAMBLE WITH BEIN' A COWARD.
I WILL BURN YOUR HOUSE TO THE GROUND AND LET THE FLAMES OF DESTRUCTION ROAR ACROSS THE PLAINS!
WHATCHA WAITIN' FOR?

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
INSOLENT WHELP! YAH!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
KSSSSH
PSSSSH
PSSSSH
KSSSSH
PSSSSH

IMPOSSIBLE. BUT EASILY RECTIFIED.
I CONTROL THE FIRES FROM THE DEPTHS OF OZ ITSELF! I CAN CALL UPON THE WINDS OF FOREIGN LANDS UNSEEN BY ANY BUT ME!
I WILL USE YOUR BONES TO TOAST MUNCHKIN SWEETS OVER THE BONFIRE OF YOUR FLESH!
EH? WHAT IS HAP--?
YOU TALK TOO MUCH!
WHACK
OOF!
LOOKS MY LITTLE GAMBLE PAID OFF. YOUR POWERS AIN'T GONNA WORK TOO WELL IN KANSAS.

AHHH HA HA HA HA HA HAAA!
FISTICUFFS? YOU BELIEVE ME DEFEATED BECAUSE OF YOUR SIMPLE PHYSICAL STRENGTH?
I HAVE LIVED FIVE OF YOUR LIFETIMES. I HAVE COURTED DEATH AND DEFEATED HIM TIME AND AGAIN. I WILL LIVE TO SEE THE DAY THAT OZ IS FREE FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THE WIZARD AND THEN I WILL RULE THE KINGDOMS OF OZ... AND BEYOND!
SURRENDER THE RUBY SPURS AND PISTOLS AND I WILL LEAVE YOUR WORLD UNTOUCHED. THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE. GIVE THEM TO ME!
THEY WILL BE MINE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
NOT AS LONG AS I'M STANDIN', LADY!

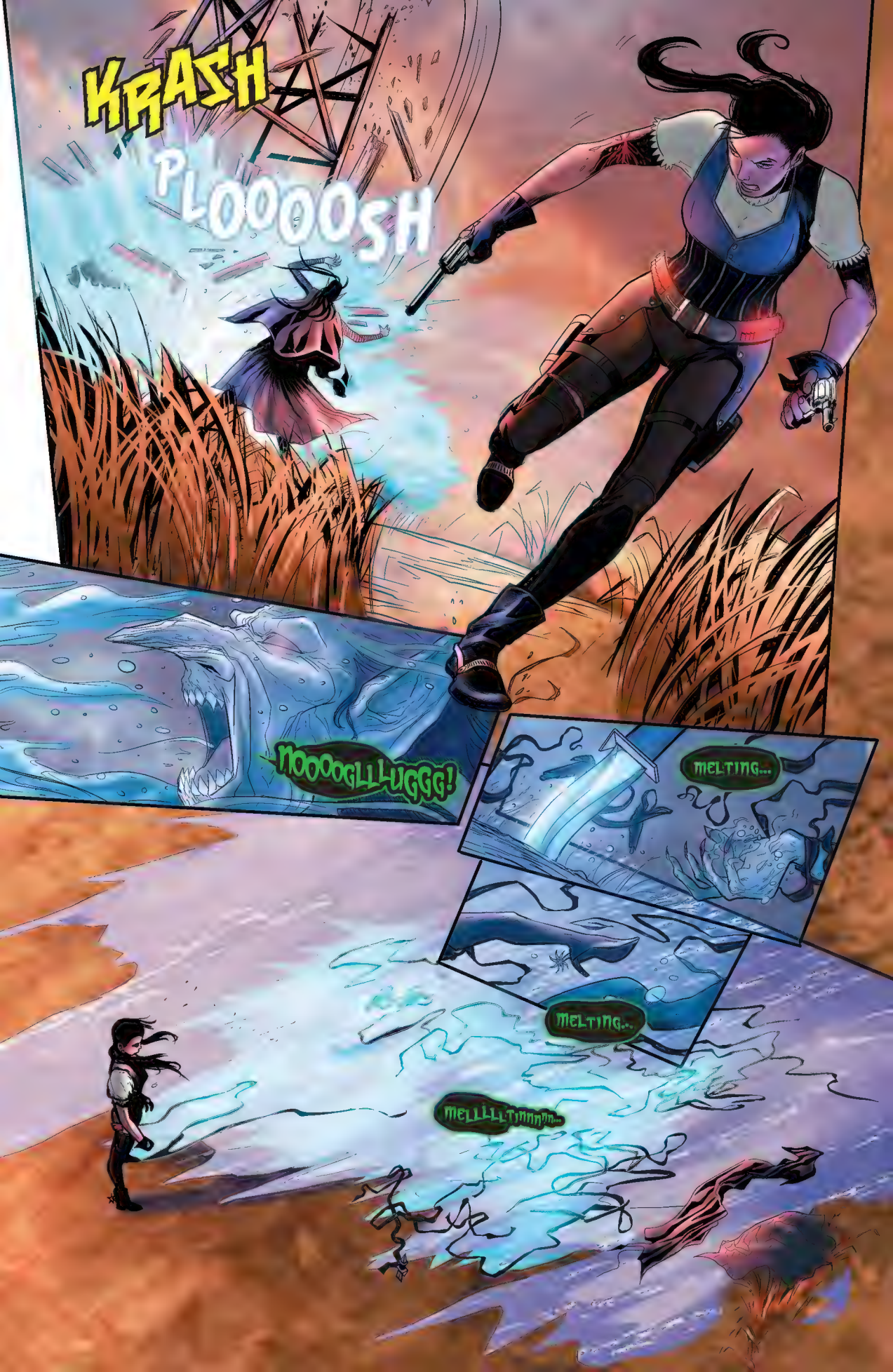
YAH!
WOOSH
WHNNK
AHH!
THIS ENDS NOW!
NOT YET!
KLUDD

SWEET. WHAT A SAUCE YOU WILL MAKE FOR THE FEAST!
HA!
ARGH!
DESTINY AWAITS, CHILD!

WHUMP
UHHH!
I'M NOT ONE TO GO QUIETLY INTO THE NIGHT.
NOR I, LITTLE ONE.
EH?
NO! GET OFF ME! GET AWAY FROM ME!
MAKE ME.
TSSS

SSSSSS
IT BURNS! IT BURNS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
CURSE YOU!
THE HECK?!
I'M SWEATIN' UP A STORM BUT WHY WOULD THAT BOTHER HER?
UNLESS...
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
...WATER?
CLICK CLICK
YOU ARE FAR MORE WICKED THAN I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR. I TIP MY HAT TO YOU, WITCH OF THE EAST. BUT YOUR DISCOVERY WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.

AHHH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
PAK
KAK
TAK
KRAK
A VALIANT EFFORT, THOUGH EFFECTIVELY USELESS. YOU COULDN'T HIT THE SIDE OF THE NOME KING'S PALACE.
CRRREAK
I WASN'T AIMING FOR YOU.
EH? THEN WHAT--?
KRAK
SNAP
NOOOOOOO!


KRASH
PLOOOOSH
NOOOOGLLLUGGG!
MELTING...
MELTING...
MELLLLLTINNNN...

GOODBYE, AUNTIE EM. GOODBYE UNCLE HENRY. IT WAS SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
HEY! WATCH OUT!
BUH-CAAWK!
PBBBBBT
WHOA! HOLD IT! IS THAT YOU, TOTO?
OH DEAR... UM...
OUR MISTRESS? IS SHE DEAD?

I'M AFRAID SO, MISS.
AND YOU HAVE RETURNED?
FOR NOW.
THE WITCH OF THE WEST IS DEAD!
THE WITCH IS DEAD!
SHE IS DEAD AT LAST!
THE WICKED WITCH IS DEAD!
LONG LIVE THE WITCH OF THE WEST!
LONG LIVE THE WITCH!
LONG LIVE OUR WITCH OF THE WEST!
WE AWAIT YOUR ORDERS, OUR WONDERFUL WITCH OF THE WEST!
AND SO BEGINS THE STORY...

GLINDA. THE PEACEKEEPER OF OZ'S SOUTHERN REGION, QUADLING COUNTRY.
THE WOMAN WITH NO NAME. THE PEACEKEEPER OF OZ'S NORTHERN REGION, LAND OF THE GILLIKANS.
WINNOW. THE PEACEKEEPER OF OZ'S WESTERN REGION, THE LAND OF THE WINKIES.
CARDINAAL. PEACEKEEPER OF THE EASTERN MUNCHKINLAND, AND VISITOR FROM SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW.
I STAND WITH GLINDA.

I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOUR FINGER WOULD POINT SOMEWHERE ELSE, WINNOW.
WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, THE PEACEKEEPERS WERE NEVER MEANT TO STAND TOGETHER, SO MUCH AS STAND FOR THEIR JURISDICTIONS.
NOW I FOR ONE SURE HAVE ENJOYED OUR RIDE TOGETHER, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE RIDE SHOULD MEET ITS CONCLUSION...
...BEFORE TOO MANY FEATHERS GET RUFFLED.
YOU WANNA SEE RUFFLED FEATHERS, CARDINAAL?
POW!

YOU AIN'T ONE OF US, CARDINAAL. YOU'RE NOTHIN' MORE THAN A STAND IN FOR OUR REAL PARTNER WHO, FOR ALL WE KNOW, YOU KILLED IN COLD BLOOD AND THEN STOLE HER IRONS.
YOU GOT EVERY RIGHT TO NOT BELIEVE ME, WINNOW, BUT YOU DON'T GOT THE RIGHT TO TAKE OUT YOU FRUSTRATIONS ON ME.
AND YOU'LL FIND I CAN DISH OUT PLENTY MORE THAN I'M GIVEN!
NOW, I'M GONNA GIVE YOU TWO CHOICES...

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
YOU CAN TAKE A BULLET...
...OR YOU CAN TAKE MY HAND.
PROVE TO ME... TO ALL OF US... THAT YOUR GUN DOES WHAT YOU CLAIM. THAT YOUR BULLETS CAN TEAR OPEN HOLES TO OTHER PLACES...
OR WHAT?
OR ELSE I'LL TAKE THAT BULLET.

CARDINAAL. PLEASE. NO ONE NEEDS TO DIE TODAY. YOU ARE RIGHT TO PROTECT THE POWERS YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE MUNCHKINS. NO ONE WILL ASK YOU TO PROVE YOUR STORY.
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, GLINDA.
ARE YOU DAFT, WOMAN? I STAND UP FOR YOU AND KEEP YOU ALIVE FOR ANOTHER DAY AND YOU'RE RESPONSE IS TO MOCK ME?
FINE.
I TAKE YER HAND NOT TA BE YER FRIEND, BUT TO BE SURE I CAN KEEP MY EYES ON YOU.
FAIR ENOUGH. BUT HAVE IT UNDERSTOOD THAT I WILL ALSO BE WATCHING YOU.
LADIES... LET US FIND OUR WAY HOME. WE WILL ALL MEET AGAIN AT THE DESIGNATED TIME.

ANOTHER TEN YEARS BEFORE WE MEET AGAIN WOULD BE JUST FINE WITH ME.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE RUDE, WINNOW.
I'D SAY SHE'S GOT THE RIGHT IDEA, THOUGH.
TRY NOT TA LET A HOUSE FALL ON YOU, CARDINAAL.
SO...
...TELL ME MORE 'BOUT THOSE FLYING MONKEYS YOU GOT UP NORTH.
THE BEGINNING...